This artwork depicts the ancient volcanic eruptions that led to the preservation of thousands of fossils. Artwork by Rob Wood

New exhibits and a film for 2006-2007

WHAT DID THE ANCIENT redwood forest and Florissant valley look like? Without a time machine we may never know. However, during the past few years scientists and artists have worked together to reconstruct, through artwork, the ancient landscape. In late spring of 2006, twelve new wayside exhibit panels will be added to the outdoor exhibit area that is just behind the visitor center. These exhibits include the beautiful artwork depicting the ancient Florissant Valley. Go out and see them and get a feel for the late Eocene.



This artwork and the painting at the top of this page are part of the new wayside exhibits behind the visitor center.

WHERE'S YOUR FILM? OUR visitors have been asking that question for years and have been disappointed to find out that one did not exist. That has changed in 2006 as we now have a 13 minute orientation film called "Shadows of the Past." The film provides a compelling introduction to the history of Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. It includes a computer animation that depicts the ancient volcanic eruptions that led to the preservation of the fossils in the area. At the time of this writing the Monument has no theater to show the film, but an interim theater is expected to be functional sometime in the summer of 2006.



A computer animated view of the Ancient Guffey Volcano from the new movie, "Shadows of the Past."

Welcome

Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument is one of nearly 390 units administered by the National Park Service. Perhaps you have visited some of the better known national parks like Yellowstone, the Grand Canyon, or Yosemite. In some ways, Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument has a lot in common with these other places. It shares the mission to protect, research, and interpret its resources for this and future generations. The Monument is also here to provide for the education and enjoyment of the

Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument is also different from many national park areas. It is one of a handful of parks that were set aside specifically for fossils. We hope that you enjoy your visit to this special place as well as other national park areas. We hope that you have a safe and meaningful visit. Please remember that both the Monument staff, the public, and yourself are all responsible for the stewardship of the Monument. Please help us preserve the area for the future generations. Take only photos and memories.

2 Basic Information

All the information you need to know to prepare for a safe visit. Park facilities, hours, fees, contact information, pets, weather, and safety information can be found on page 2.

3 Nature and science

Are paleontologists still doing research and excavating for fossils? Learn about current research as well as historic research on page 3.

4-5 Plan your visit

Ranger talks and walks, self guided trails, seminars, and other types of activities are available for you to learn about the Monument. Check on page 4 - 5 to see which activities you might want to do.

7 For Kids

Learn more about the Junior Ranger Program and check out the fun facts on page 7



What you need to know



Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument

Superintendent

Reginald M. Tiller

Mailing Address

PO Box 185 Florissant, CO 80816

Website

www.nps.gov/flfo

Emai

FLFO_Information@nps.gov

Park Headquarters

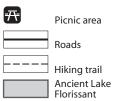
(719) 748-3253

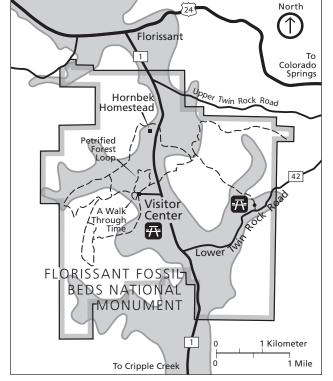
The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Map

Florissant Fossil Beds' 6,000 acres of rolling hills and gentle valleys protects one of the richest and most diverse fossil deposits in the world.

A detailed trail map with distances and descriptions can be obtained at the visitor center desk.





Safety First

Lightning

Lightning is common in the summer afternoons. Stay low, avoid standing next to trees or on exposed ridges and hilltops, and seek shelter before the storm arrives.

Elevation

Headache, fatigue, and nausea can be symptoms of altitude sickness. To prevent altitude sickness, ascend slowly and drink plenty of water. Avoid strenuous activity until you are acclimated, particularly travelers with heart, lung, or kidney disease.

Don't Feed Animals

Do not feed park animals. Though they appear cute and harmless, they are wild and will bite and scratch. In addition, they may carry diseases such as hantavirus and bubonic plague.

Sun

The sun is intense at high elevations. Use sun block and hats.

Essential Information

Accessibility

The visitor center and associated petrified stump displays are fully wheelchair accessible.

All-Terrain Vehicles

ATV's and snowmobiles are not permitted in the Monument.

Bicycling

Bicycles are permitted only on public roads and in parking areas. Bicycles are prohibited on all trails and remaining areas.

Bookstore

The Rocky Mountain Nature Association (RMNA) sells books, maps, hiking guides, children's items and much more in the bookstore located in the visitor center.

Camping and Campfires

Camping and campfires are prohibited within the Monument.

Fireworks

Fireworks are prohibited in the Monument.

Firearms and Weapons

Firearms, bows, BB guns, paintball guns, and slingshots are not allowed in the park.

Horses

Horses are prohibited on all trails and in developed public use areas. Horse use information is available at the visitor center.

Hunting/Trapping

Hunting and trapping are prohibited in the Monument.

Lost and Found

Report lost or found items at the visitor center.

Phones

A pay phone is located at the visitor center.

Picnics

There are three picnic areas - one outside the visitor center, the Barksdale Picnic Area, and the Hornbek Homestead.

Translations

German, Spanish, and French translations are available at the visitor center.

Trash

Trash receptacles are located at the visitor center, Barksdale picnic area, and Hornbek Homestead parking lot. Recycling receptacles are located at the visitor center.

Water

Potable water is available at the visitor center.

Wildlife

The Monument is home to a wide variety of wildlife such as deer, elk, bear, mountain lion, fox, coyote, and ground squirrels to name a few.

Feeding Wildlife

Do not feed wildlife. Feeding animals can make them dependent upon humans for survival. Our food can be harmful or fatal to animals. Many animals carry diseases and can be dangerous to you and your family. Protect wildlife by protecting your food.

Collecting

Removal or disturbance of any natural or cultural feature in the park is prohibited. Collecting fossils, petrified wood, rocks, antlers, or any natural product, including wildflowers, is prohibited.

Fees

An entrance fee is required. Payment must be at the fee station at the park visitor center. \$3.00 per person for those 16 years or older. Free for anyone 15 years and younger. National Park Passes, Golden Age Passports, Golden Access Passports, and Florissant Annual Passes are all accepted. Ask at the visitor center desk about obtaining a federal pass.

Pets

Pets, when leashed, are permitted in the signed pet area near the visitor center and in public parking areas. Pets are prohibited on all trails and remaining areas.

Visitor Center Hours

Open all year except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Days. 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Nature and Science

T.D.A. Cockerell: Naturalist, Humanitarian, Teacher

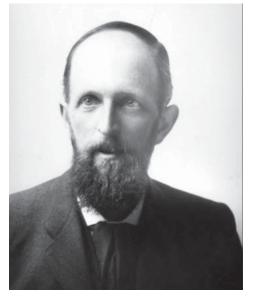
by Melissa Barton, Museum Aide

"My wife was particularly anxious to find a fossil butterfly," wrote Theodore Dru Alison Cockerell in 1908, "and often as we went out to work, we asked, would this be the day to yield the coveted treasure?"

Cockerell's expeditions to Florissant in 1906-1908 were long anticipated. He first learned of Florissant when he was living in Westcliffe, Colorado as a young man, like many other Englishmen seeking respite from tuberculosis.

In 1889, he wrote to his sweetheart Annie Fenn, about Dr. Samuel Scudder's paper on fossil insects, which described the fossil beds at Florissant.

Cockerell's letters from that period say little else about Florissant, and he does not seem to have visited here until the 1906-1908 expeditions arranged by the



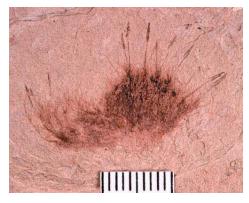
T.D.A. Cockerell. Photo courtesy of the University of Colorado Library Archives

University of Colorado (CU) in cooperation with other museums. At that time, Cockerell and his wife Wilmatte were living in Boulder, where Cockerell taught at CU. Cockerell had previously spent time in England, Jamaica, and New Mexico; his first wife, Annie, had died following the birth of their son, Martin.

A prolific writer and naturalist

- sometimes criticized for his rush to publish results - Cockerell produced over 130 scientific papers on the hundreds of Florissant fossils he helped collect. Although his particular research interests were bees and beetles, Cockerell found nothing in nature uninteresting – one of the finest specimens found during the 1906-1908 expeditions was the first "really recognizable moss ever found fossil in America."

Toward the close of the second season, Wilmatte Porter Cock-



Rare moss fossil found by Cockerell. Photo Courtesy of Peabody Museum of Natural History, Yale University

erell, T.D.A. Cockerell's second wife, finally found the longed-for butterfly: a magnificent specimen "yielding place only to Scudder's *Prodryas persephone*," according to Cockerell.

A true Renaissance man, Cockerell's gravestone in Boulder is marked with the inscription "Naturalist – Humanitarian – Teacher."

Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument will commemorate the centennial of Cockerell's 1906 expedition to Florissant on June 10, 2006, with speakers and a field trip to some of Cockerell's collecting localities. Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, The Friends of Florissant Fossil Beds, and the University of Colorado are cosponsoring the event.

Mammals, Minerals, and Microorganisms: What's new in research at Florissant Fossil Beds NM

by Melissa Barton, Museum Aide

Park Paleontologist Herbert
Meyer has been hard at work
editing an upcoming Geological
Society of America Special Paper
on Florissant paleontology. Coedited by Dena Smith, curator of
invertebrate paleontology at the
University of Colorado Museum,
the volume will contain about 15
papers on research conducted at
Florissant over the past several
years. Three of the papers are
co-authored by former paleontology interns, and several are
co-authored by Meyer.

One key paper is about Florissant mammals, authored by Karen Lloyd, Marie Worley-Georg, and Jaelyn Eberle of the University of Colorado (CU). This paper will discuss the fossils found by Worley in 2003 when she interned at the park, as well as specimens collected last summer, including

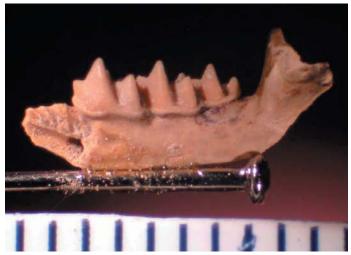
a tooth from an extinct camel relative. A related project by 2005 intern Melissa Barton analyzed oxygen isotope ratios in Eocene mammal teeth, including specimens from Florissant. Oxygen isotopes can provide information about paleorelief and elevation of the Rocky Mountains, an ongoing controversy among geologists.

Other highlights include papers on the history of paleontology at the fossil beds; plant-insect interactions in the fossil record; and the mineralogy and geochemistry of fossil wood. The volume will also contain a paper authored by Jen Young, George Mustoe, and Meyer, which analyzes conservation techniques that could be used to protect the park's fossil stumps from weather damage. Visitor entrance fees via the National Park Service's Fee Demo program supported this project.

MaryEllen Benson, a graduate student at CU, has been conducting research on Florissant diatoms, a type of microscopic algae, for her doctoral dissertation. Research over the past few years has suggested that diatoms play an important role in the excellent preservation of some fossils, but until now there has been little study of the diatoms themselves. Benson, who is advised by Dena Smith and Sarah Spaulding, is

identifying and describing the diatoms. This major long-term project is also funded by the Fee Demo program.

Several other scientific studies are currently in progress at Florissant as well. The GSA Special Volume on Florissant is currently expected to publish in 2007.



Fossil jaw of an ancient member of the shrew family

Plan Your Visit

Self-guided activities (can be done throughout the year)

Activity	Description	Location			
Orientation Film	This 13 minute film introduces visitors to the Monument.	An interim theater for the film will be sometime in the summer of 2006.			
Self-guiding trail: Petrified Forest Loop	One mile walk past many petrified trees including the "Big Stump", over an ancient lake bed, view a historic excavation pit, and see great views of Pike's Peak and	Begins behind the visitor center just past the outdoor exhibit area.			
Trail	the Florissant valley.	Brochures are available at the front desk or behind the visitor center in a brochure dispenser.			
Outdoor exhibit area	View massive petrified redwood stumps and learn about the geologic processes that led to their formation.	Stump and exhibts are located behind the visitor center.			
Self-guiding tour: Hornbek Homestead	Walk the grounds of a historic 1878 homestead and learn about a different time in the Florissant valley.	The Hornbek Homestead is located about 1 mile north of the entrance to the Monument visitor center off of Teller County #1.			
		Brochures available at the front desk or in a brochure box located at the gate to the homestead grounds.			
Junior Ranger program	Children ages 5 -12 can complete activities in the Monument and in the junior ranger work book to earn their junior ranger badge.	The workbooks are available at the front desk of the visitor center for a nominal fee.			

Ranger-guided activities (summer time only; ask at visitor center desk for details)

Activity	Description	Location
Interpretive talk	This 30-minute interpretive talk describes the geologic processes that led to the formation of the Florissant fossil beds and the significance of this National Monument.	Amphitheater in the outdoor exhibit area behind the visitor center. Check at the visitor center for times.
Ranger-led hike	These ranger-guided walks may last from 45 minutes to 1.5 hours and may cover between 0.5 mile to 1.5 miles. Topics may include the local geology, paleontology, natural history, or cultural history.	Ranger-guided walks begin behind the visitor center. Check at the visitor center for times and topics.
Hornbek Homestead	Meet a ranger at the historic 1878 homestead. Go inside the historic homestead and other outbuildings to learn about a different time in the Florissant valley.	The Hornbek Homestead is located about 1 mile north of the entrance to the Monument visitor center off of Teller County Road #1. Check at the visitor center desk for details.

Field seminars and special events



A member of the park staff, dressed in period costume, cooks bread in the woodstove. Photo by Cliff Dickey

Hornbek Homestead Days

Twice a year, the Monument hosts a two-day open house at the Hornbek Homestead. During these two open house weekends, you can tour the historic homestead and see demonstrations of pioneer crafts such as weaving, spinning, quilting, cooking, and basket making. Children can play games from the 1800's and enjoy lemonade and cookies in the summer and home-baked bread and hot cider in the winter.

Typically, Hornbek Homestead Days are held on the weekend of the last full week in July and the first full week in December. Please call the Monument at (719) 748 - 3253 for details.



Participants in a summer seminar learn about an outcrop of lake shale. Photo by Cliff Dickey

Summer Seminar Series

The seminar series at Florissant fossil Beds, Inc. provides adult learners the opportunity for one or two-day, field-based experiential learning in the natural university that the Monument and the Pikes Peak region offers. Many of these seminars can be taken for graduate credit or recertification credit.

The Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds, Inc sponors the seminars which take place on weekends during the summer. Expert instructors from the region are brought to the Monument to teach about topics such as geology, paleontology, ecology, cultural history, photography, humanities, etc.

If you are interested in the seminar series, please ask at the visitor center, call the Monument at (719) 748-3253, or look online at http://www.nps.gov/flfo/education/seminars.htm.



Children take part in a discovery program about fossils. Photo by Cliff Dickey

Discovery Programs

Discovery programs last 1 - 3 hours and explore a particular topic more in depth. Topics for these programs might include edible and medicinal plants, mammoths, hydrology, map and compass, wildland fire, astronomy, golden eagles, etc.

Please ask at the front desk or call the Monument at (719) 748-3253 for discovery program schedules.

Just for kids

WORDSEARCH

Can you find the following words. They might be upside down or backwards or on a diagonal.

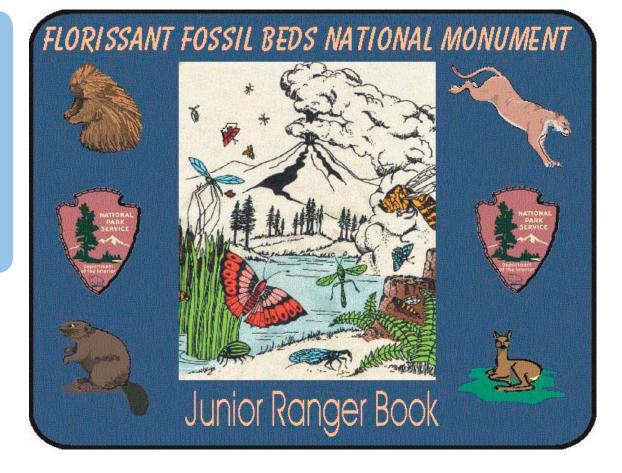
BUTTERFLY
FOSSIL
INSECTS
LAKE
MUDFLOW
PALEONTOLOGIST
RANGER
REDWOODS
SHALE
TRAIL
VOLCANO

L	A	K	E	Н	Z	X	Q	V	L	O	W	W	N	A
T	V	X	Z	Q	В	W	Ο	U	Z	Z	T	X	Y	L
R	A	N	G	E	R	C	T	В	U	Y	A	E	O	J
V	P	A	В	W	L	V	U	Η	Q	E	L	A	Η	S
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M	U	D	F	L	O	W	Η	S	P	N	В	V	U	Ι
F	A	R	X	V	N	S	D	J	W	S	L	T	N	N
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S	J	R	Z	P	O	L	M	R	E	E	Y	O	A	E
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P	P	J	Q	F	V	W	В	Q	U	J	L	E	M	R
R	E	O	E	Y	E	K	N	P	D	V	Q	J	A	R

Become a Junior Ranger!

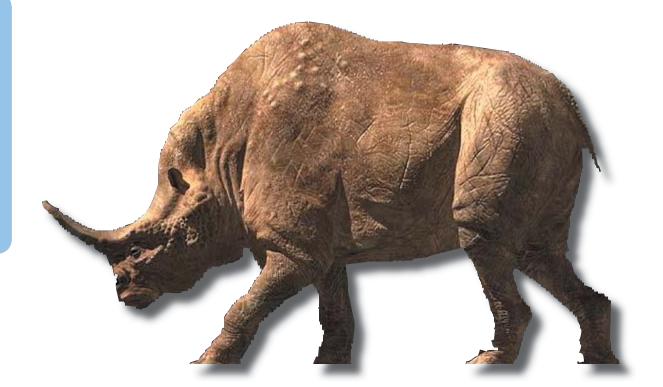
You can earn a junior ranger badge by completing activities in the junior ranger book.

The junior ranger program was designed for children ages 5 - 12. It usually takes about 2 hours to complete the junior ranger program.



Did You Know!

Paleontologists discovered the remains of a giant creature that once lived in the Florissant area. It is called a brontothere and was a giant, elephant-sized, plant-eater. The brontothere and the family of animals related to it have been extinct for over 30 million years! So even though it looks like a rhinocerous, it is totally unrelated!



Rocky Mountain Nature Association

Backroads of Colorado \$19.95

The Rocky Mountain Nature Association (RMNA) sells maps, guides, books, and a variety of other educational items at their bookstore in the visitor center. You can download an order form or get information on becoming a member at at http://www. nps.gov/flfo/bookstore.htm and send it to: RMNA, PO Box 185, Florissant, CO 80816

Popular Picks:

FLORISSANT FOSSIL BEDS N.M. Fossils of Florissant \$39.95 Florissant: Window to the Past \$2.00 Eocene Bird Poster \$5.00 Florissant Fossil Beds Poster \$3.50 Florissant Fossil Beds Bookmark \$1.00 Fossil Plants of Florissant, CO \$24.95 Florissant Fossil Beds Magnet \$1.00 Florissant Fossil Beds Wasp Pin \$3.95

NATIONAL PARKS

National Geographic Guide to National Parks \$25.00

Colorado National Monument \$6.95 Dinosaur National Monument Quarry \$7.95 Great Sand Dunes \$6.95

National Parkways Mesa Verde \$7.50 Story Behind the Scenery (each) \$9.95 Dinosaur **Grand Circle**

Mount St. Helens Rocky Mountain National Parks Map and Guide \$1.25 National Park Playing Cards \$5.00

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Colorado Front Range Scenic and Historic

Byways \$12.95

LOCAL HISTORY/NATIVE AMERICANS Cripple Creek Quick History \$4.95 Ghost Tales of Cripple Creek \$3.95 Gold Belt Byway Guidebook \$9.95 Pikes Peak Backcountry \$15.95 Victor Quick History \$4.95 Utes: The Mountain People \$14.00

WOMEN'S HISTORY Cripple Creek Days \$18.95 Daughter of a Pioneer \$10.00 Doc Susie \$14.95 Lady's Life in the Rocky Mountains \$8.95 Magnificent Mountain Women \$15.95 Pioneer Women \$21.95 More Than Petticoats \$10.95 Wild Woman of the West \$17.95

Chipeta: Queen of the Utes \$16.95

FOSSILS & GEOLOGY Messages in Stone \$16.95 Audubon Field Guide Fossils \$19.95 FOSSILS & GEOLOGY (Continued) Audubon Field Guide Rocks and Minerals

Common Fossil Plants of Western N. America \$24.95

Colorado Rockhounding \$20.00 Smithsonian Handbook Fossils \$20.00 Hiking Colorado's Geology \$16.95 Field Guide to Geology \$14.95 Guide to Geology of Colorado \$24.95 Roadside Geology of Colorado \$20.00 Colorado Geologic Highway Map \$6.95 Southwest Inside Out \$24.95 Geologic Wonders of South Park \$29.95 Geologic Guidebook to the Goldbelt Byway \$19.95

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Birds of Colorado Field Guide \$13.95 National Geographic Birds of N. America

Audubon Field Guide Rocky Mountain States \$19.95

Audubon Field Guide Western Wildflowers \$19.95

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Weeds of Northern US \$21.95 Rocky Mountain Wildflower Pocket Guide

Mammals of the Rocky Mountains \$21.95 Animal Tracks of the Rockies \$7.95 Colorado Wildlife Portfolio \$24.95

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How Would You Survive the American West? \$7.95

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Usborne Books

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VIDEOS/GAMES/SCREENSAVERS Video-Touring National Parks \$19.95 Video-Pikes Peak Route \$19.95 Video-Ghost of the Forest \$24.95 Video-America's Great Volcanoes \$19.95 Video-Explore Colorado or DVD \$19.95 Video-Simply Wildlife \$17.95 The Game of Earth \$9.95 The Game of Space \$9.95 Monopoly-National Parks Edition \$35.00 National Park Dominoes \$10.00 Screen Saver-America's National Parks

Screen Saver-Colorado Four Seasons \$9.95

Become a Member

Members of the Rocky Mountain Nature Association receive a 15% discount on publications, discounts on seminars at Rocky Mountain National Park, complimentary copies of the RMNP newspaper High Country Headlines, and the RMNA Quarterly newsletter. You may automatically take a 15% discount on any item ordered here.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES Individual \$25.00 Family \$35.00 Supporting \$50.00 Contributing \$100.00 Lifetime \$1,000.00



Amount enclosed

Order Form

Send book order and membership forms with check or money order to: ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATURE ASSOCIATION Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument

P.O. Box 185

Florissant, CO 80816

Phone: (719) 748-3253 Fax: (719) 748-3164

e-mail: jo_beckwith@nps.gov

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Park News and Visitor Guide



National Park Service
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Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds, Inc.

In 1987, the Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds, Inc. was organized by a group of dedicated individuals interested in assisting the National Park Service in its mission to preserve and protect our national treasures. As a nonprofit organization, the Friend's mission is to secure resources to help preserve the fossils, and to promote programs and activities that enhance the Monument's education, research, and scientific objectives.



Friends' groups help many of the National Park Service areas in a variety of ways. Membership fees and donations to the Friends of Florissant Fossil Beds, Inc. are used for:

- Sponsoring this visitor guide
- On site and off site educational programs
- Summer seminar series
- Funding paleontology and interpretive interns
- Research

Membership in the Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds, Inc. gives you the following benefits:

- Complimentary copy of Impressions, the Monument's annual newsletter and park guide
- Friends' quarterly newsletter
- Discounts on the summer seminar series
- Opportunities to participate in community programs and service projects
- Attendance at the Annual Friend's Board Meeting in the fall
- Opportunities to serve on the board and/or committees

Friends Membership Form Membership Categories	
Individual \$15.00	Name
Individual (2 year) \$27.00	Street
Family \$25.00	City
Family (2 year) \$40.00	State
Corp/ Business \$100.00	ZIP
Lifetime (Old Fossil) \$300.00	Phone
Contribution	
Total	